

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01040 072119Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6364

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1040

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, TD

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS

1. UPON CALLING ON PM ERIC WILLIAMS TODAY AT HIS REQUEST I FOUND HIM IN WARM AND RELAXED MOOD. WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION COVERED SEVERAL TOPICS WHICH WILL BE REPORTED IN MORE DETAIL SEPARATELY.

2. VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED MEETING LASTED MORE THAN FIFTY MINUTES AND PM SEEMED IN NO HURRY AS HE PULLED OUT PIPE AND TALKED ALMOST NON-STOP. AT THE END I FOUND THAT ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE HAD BEEN KEPT WAITING MORE THAN TWENTY MINUTES FOR HIS CALL IN CONNECTION WITH PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS. PM JOVIALY THEREFORE SENT ME OUT SIDE ENTRANCE TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO ECUADOREAN.

3. WILLIAMS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED HIS HIGH ADMIRATION FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER AND NEW EFFORT AT DIALOGUE SECRETARY IS BRINGING TO INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS. SECRETARY'S PERSONAL LETTER TO HIM FOLLOWING THE TLATELLOLCO MFM OBVIOUSLY HAD IMPRESSED HIM VERY MUCH AND HE PULLED THE LETTER OUT ONTO THE DESK AS HE TALKED. PM FELT THE THEME OF INTERDEPENDENCE SECRETARY IS FOSTERING IS ALL-IMPORTANT. IN RELATION TO TRINIDAD'S CONCERNS, WILLIAMS SAID QUESTIONS SUCH AS ENERGY POLICY AND AVIATION ROUTES IN THE CARIBBEAN SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN LIGHT OF BROAD OVERALL
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PAGE 02 PORT O 01040 072119Z

PERSPECTIVE ON REAL IMPLICATIONS OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FOR

INTERDEPENDENCE AND REGIONAL STABILITY.

4. PM INFORMED ME HE WILL BE TRAVELING SOON TO US IN PRIVATE CAPACITY. WE ALSO DISCUSSED AVIATION MATTERS AND FORTHCOMING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PETROLEUM AND ENERGY-RELATED SECTORS OF THE T&T ECONOMY. THESE TOPICS ARE REPORTED SEPARATELY IN DETAIL.

5. DR. WILLIAMS EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR STEPS WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN TO ENHANCE DAUGHTER ERICA'S SECURITY WHILE SHE IS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES.

6. COMMENT: I FOUND PM VIGOROUS, ALBEIT RAMBLING, AND OBVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN MANY PROJECTS SIMULTANEOUSLY. THERE WAS EVERY INDICATION THAT I CAN EXPECT TO HAVE FURTHER ACCESS TO HIM IN THE FUTURE. HE EXCUSED HIS PAST UNAVAILABILITY ON GROUNDS OF BEING BUSY AND ALSO A LACK OF ANYTHING TO SAY TO US. OBVIOUSLY, PLEA OF BUSY SCHEDULE INDICATES PM INTENDS OUR DISCUSSIONS PRIMARILY TO BE AT HIS INITIATIVE AND CONVENIENCE RATHER THAN OURS.
MILLER

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